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lively gift of phrase—which after all is a gift of insight—the author could not have given us his many concise and luminous statements on a long line of princes, ministers, poets, and artists. It is easy to make an anthology of his epigrams. They abound on every page. S. Maria degli Angeli “covers the Portiuncula of St. Francis, like a bowl turned over a forget-me-not” (p. 306). Frederick II. suggests a Caesarean Byron, Carlo Alberto an Italian Hamlet. Napoleon in Italy “arranged the peninsula as a housekeeper shifts the furniture in an unsatisfactory room” (p. 365). If his figures and comparisons do not always hit the mark, they invariably light a taper which throws a thread of light far into the darkness.

The proportions in a sketch of this sort are a grave embarrassment. One might complain that the nineteenth century has received too little attention, the seventeenth and eighteenth too much. And yet we would not sacrifice a word of the delicate and ironical treatment of Italian decay. The conclusion with its twentieth-century outlook is decidedly meagre. Against these doubts stands the fact that this book securely constructs the essential framework of Italian history. Mere differences of view as to relative emphasis will keep no fair-minded person from doing full justice to the author's grasp, his sober judgment, and his charm of manner.

FERDINAND SCHWILL.

*Ethnographische Beiträge zur germanisch-slavischen Altertumskunde.* Von K. RHAMM. Teil I. *Die Grosshufen der Nordgermanen.* (Braunschweig: Friedrich Vieweg und Sohn. 1905. Pp. xiv, 853.)

IN this substantial volume the question of the structure of early Teutonic society is approached from the point of view of the agrarian historian. Believing that Anglo-Saxon institutions should not be studied in isolation, the author restates the conclusions of Hanssen, Meitzen, and Maitland, compares them, and discusses at length, in the light of Scandinavian and Frisian evidence, a number of special points. With the object of elucidating the relation of the social classes to the land, he investigates the agricultural arrangements, field measures, plows, and units of landholding of the North German stocks (the Scandinavians, Anglo-Saxons, and Frisians). In pursuing this line of inquiry the author is struck by the fact that a large *hufe* of from twenty to thirty hectares is common to all the North Germans, and accordingly discusses in turn the hide, the carucate, the old Danish *bol*, and the Swedish *attungshufe*, together with their respective subdivisions. The size of the plow-team and the weight of the plows, too, are taken up with the conclusion that the heavy plow with the full team of eight oxen was the original implement of all North Germans.

Of especial interest is the section of the book headed “Die Jard und das Breitensystem.” In the view of Herr Rhamm too little atten-

tion has been paid to the system of delimiting the strips in the shot in use among North Germans. Where this system, the *Breitensystem*, prevailed, the width of the strip was the same in every strip in the shot. The length might vary, but the width was the same. According to the *Flächensystem*, the more truly "*deutsches*" system, on the other hand, the aim is to divide the land into pieces of equal area. The width of the strip is of less importance and the shots are small and irregular in size. In the word used to denote the strip of the *Breitensystem*, in Oldenburg, *Jard*, among the Frisians, *Jerde*, we find a clue to the origin of the yard-land. Although of the width of two rods, the strip becomes the yard in England and the foundation of the yard-land. The yard of land as a superficial measure is a half-acre, not a quarter-acre as Maitland holds. The origin of the intermixed holdings in the common fields made up of strips of equal width seems to Rhamm to need particular explanation. To apportion strips of both good and bad land to the several members of a community he regards as the natural method of securing the equality of all shareholders, and this equality, in turn, is proved by the fact that the strips are equal in width. Professor Knapp's criticism (that a conscious policy, aimed at the maintenance of economic equality, is too rationalistic for early Teutons) is answered by the antiquity and wide spread of the *Breitensystem*. "This [latter] fact stands so fixed that it says to all Hildebrand's analogies, all Knapp's deductions, and all Rübel's wild fancies, 'Hands off.'" Thus "the common free-man" finds support.

Throughout the book Scandinavian and English conditions are compared. The development of agrarian relations in the frame of the large *hufe* is to be explained in Scandinavia by co-operative agriculture, while among the Anglo-Saxons the organization of society played a more important part. To illustrate, the hide is to be regarded as the holding of a ceorl who has only public obligations to perform, while the yard-land is the holding of a dependent ceorl and owes its importance to this fact. The influence of the small "German" *Landhufe*, exerted before the conquerors of England left Germany, explains the size of the yard-land.

The effect of the book is not to make one reject Professor Maitland's theories. It rather supplements his line of argument by giving us a wider range of facts to aid in the solution of the problems of early English economic history. It is surprising that no reference is made to Kovalevsky's *Die ökonomische Entwicklung Europas*.

H. R. SHIPMAN.

*Mohammed and the Rise of Islam.* By D. S. MARGOLIOUTH.  
[Heroes of the Nations.] (New York and London: G. P.  
Putnam's Sons. 1905. Pp. xxvi, 481.)

ALTHOUGH various lives of Mohammed have appeared, and although some of these may be fairly characterized as excellent, yet of late years